

# What's New in the MPDC

MARCH 11, 2002

## DC CRIME DECLINES IN FEBRUARY; REDUCTIONS IN ALL CRIME TYPES EXCEPT BURGLARY

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*Despite the overall crime reduction in DC, burglaries rose 11.3 percent in February and are up 17.2 percent year to date. District commanders and PSA lieutenants are developing action plans to combat burglary in our neighborhoods; still, homeowners and apartment dwellers can take concrete steps to reduce their risk of being burglarized. For a list of burglary prevention safety tips, click on:*

[mpdc.dc.gov/info/other/burglary.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/other/burglary.shtm)

For the second month in a row, crime in DC declined sharply during February, according to preliminary statistics from the MPDC. Reductions were recorded in seven of the eight major crime types, including sharp drops in robberies, thefts and assaults. Overall crime was down 13.3 percent in February, when compared with the same month a year earlier. For the first two months of 2002, reported crime in DC is down 12.5 percent when compared with January and February of 2001. Double-digit decreases have been recorded this year in all major crime categories, except burglary. View preliminary crime statistics through February for each of the seven police districts, as well as the District as a whole, at:

[mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats.shtm)

## COMMUNICATIONS RIGHTS FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

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The MPDC is committed to providing deaf and hard of hearing residents with the ability to communicate effectively with the police in a variety of circumstances. To help meet this commitment, the MPDC is distributing information detailing the "communications rights" of the deaf and hard of hearing. In most situations, deaf and hard of hearing residents are free to choose any form of communication that allows them to interact effectively with the police, including the use of notes, gestures or available printed materials. In addition, there are specific communications rights for individuals who are arrested or are the victims or witnesses of a crime. Flyers detailing these rights have been printed for officers to disseminate to deaf and hard of hearing residents. To access complete information about the communications rights of the deaf and hard of hearing, go to:

[mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/commrightsdeaf.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/commrightsdeaf.shtm)

*To further improve communication with the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities, the MPDC has installed teletype (TTY) devices for deaf communication at all major police facilities. In addition, the 9-1-1 and 3-1-1 (non-emergency) phone lines are TTY-compatible. Get a list of the MPDC's TTY numbers at:*

[mpdc.dc.gov/info/phone/tty.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/phone/tty.shtm)

## MPDC LAUNCHES RECRUITING DRIVE IN PUERTO RICO

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In a concerted effort to increase the number of bilingual (English-Spanish) officers, the MPDC's Office of Recruiting has embarked on a 10-day recruiting swing through the Island of Puerto Rico. The trip includes visits to Mayaguez, Ponce and San Juan, where recruiters will accept applications and administer entry-level tests. Just about 5 percent of the MPDC's 3,600 officers are Hispanic; the trip to Puerto Rico is part of a new effort to increase that number. Officers who are certified as fluent in Spanish or any other second language (including American Sign Language) receive an additional \$50 stipend per pay period. For more information on becoming an MPDC officer, including minimum requirements, visit:

[mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm)

*The MPDC recently announced three new career opportunities for civilians: modus operandi technician, compliance monitor and boat vessel registrar. Get complete details on these and other civilian positions at:*

[mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm)

## 7D OFFICERS RECEIVE HONORS FOR DISARMING DANGEROUS HOMICIDE SUSPECT

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While on foot patrol in their SE beat last September, Seventh District Officers Brian Waid and Lance Andriani noticed a suspicious parked vehicle with the occupants apparently asleep inside. As part of their investigation, the officers asked the occupants to exit the vehicle, at which time one of the men grabbed for a handgun tucked in his waistband. Officer Waid responded quickly and dislodged the weapon from the gunman's hand. A struggle ensued, during which time the suspect attempted, unsuccessfully, to grab Officer Andriani's service weapon. After getting some distance between themselves and the suspect, the officers used OC spray to immobilize the suspect and place him under arrest on a variety of assault, weapons and drug charges. Further investigation revealed him to be a suspect in a murder case. For their heroic actions, Officers Waid and Andriani were honored this past during the monthly CHAMPS Awards ceremony, held at the Henley Park Hotel. Read detailed write-ups on these and other CHAMPS awardees for March at:

*CHAMPS stands for "Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service." Each month, the Hotel Association of Washington DC hosts a ceremony at a local hotel to honor MPD officers for their service to the community. Learn more about the Hotel Association at:*  
**[www.hawdc.com/](http://www.hawdc.com/)**

**[mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2002/03.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2002/03.shtm)**

## CHIEF RAMSEY TESTIFIES AT HOUSE HEARING ON CRISIS RESPONSE NEEDS

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Chief Ramsey this past week told members of Congress that local officials need federal support in procuring the equipment and training needed to respond to any future terrorist acts or other crises. In testimony before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Procurement, the Chief

*Want to get involved in Neighborhood Watch or other community policing programs in DC? Check out various ways to lend your assistance to the fight against crime, disorder and any possible terrorist threat within your police district or PSA:*

**[mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/involved.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/involved.shtm)**

said local governments need not just financial support but also information on testing and standards for equipment that most local police departments have little experience procuring or using. Noting that DC and other cities will be buying millions of dollars worth of crisis response equipment in the coming years, Ramsey said, "we desperately need the federal government's assistance in setting standards, evaluating equipment and sharing that information with local law enforcement." Read the Chief's complete testimony at:

*Attorney General Ashcroft this week called for an expansion of the Neighborhood Watch concept in the US to go beyond community crime problems and focus on the fight against terrorism as well. In announcing nearly \$2 million in new funding for Neighborhood Watch nationwide, Ashcroft asked citizen patrol groups and others to be vigilant in looking out for potential terrorist threats at home. Get more details at:*

**[www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2002/March/02\\_ag\\_125.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2002/March/02_ag_125.htm)**

Read the Chief's complete testimony at:

**[mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2002/03/030502.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2002/03/030502.shtm)**

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*Information, ideas or comments about this service?*

*E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kmorison\\_mpdc@excite.com](mailto:kmorison_mpdc@excite.com).*

*Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with [crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com).*

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**MPDC.DC.GOV**